



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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14-28

Editor's Note: Please consider adding this information as a traffic warning as appropriate, to remind visitors of potential delays.

Safety Improvement Work on the Cactus Forest Loop in the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park will Resume on March 24

Tucson, AZ – Visitors to Saguaro National Park's Rincon Mountain District (east) may experience a 15 minute traffic delay at the beginning of the Cactus Forest Loop Drive, starting March 24.

It is also anticipated that the road may be closed from 5am until 8am to complete the work, though it is unknown which days visitors should expect the closure. All visitors, including early morning walkers, joggers, and bicyclists, should be prepared for the loop road to be closed until 8am. The Javelina Picnic Area, as well as the Tanque Verde Ridge, Broadway, and Douglas Springs Trailheads will be open. As soon as more specific information about the scheduled closures is available, it will be posted on the park's Facebook page, facebook.com/saguaronationalpark and on the front page of the park's website, www.nps.gov/sagu

The construction project will consist of widening and hardening the road shoulder at the bottom of the first major hill, as well as smoothing out the transition from that curve into the wash crossing. This work is necessary to improve that corner, specifically for bicyclists who are new to the park or otherwise unfamiliar with the Cactus Forest Loop Drive.

"Navigating that corner can be a challenge for riders who exceeding the 15 mpg speed limit," according to Brad Shattuck, Facility Manager at Saguaro National Park. "By widening the road shoulder we hope provide an area for bicyclists to recover control and safely complete the turn."

This work is being completed in partnership with the Federal Highways Administration, whose safety engineers recommended the mitigation, and is scheduled to continue for approximately two weeks.

For more information about Saguaro National Park or the road project, please visit www.nps.gov/sagu.

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